AMENDMENT

Please amend the case as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as provided in the following claim listing:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 2,~~ A computerized system for trading securities and commodities, comprising:

a computerized introducing affiliate in a first country suitable for accepting a transaction order from a customer and transmitting said transaction order electronically, said transaction order being for the handling of a security or commodity;

an exchange on which said security or commodity is traded;

a computerized executing affiliate in a second country suitable for electronically receiving said transaction order and executing said transaction order on the exchange; and

a global hub connected between said introducing affiliate and said executing affiliate, wherein said global hub electronically routes said transaction order from said introducing affiliate to said executing affiliate,

wherein said transaction order is to sell an equity, and said executing affiliate electronically transmits proceeds from said sale of said equity to said global hub.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said global hub transmits said proceeds to said introducing affiliate.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 1,~~ A computerized system for trading securities and commodities, comprising:

a computerized introducing affiliate in a first country suitable for accepting a transaction order from a customer and transmitting said transaction order electronically, said transaction order being for the handling of a security or commodity;

an exchange on which said security or commodity is traded;

a computerized executing affiliate in a second country suitable for electronically receiving said transaction order and executing said transaction order on the exchange; and

a global hub connected between said introducing affiliate and said executing affiliate, wherein said global hub electronically routes said transaction order from said introducing affiliate to said executing affiliate,

wherein said transaction order is to purchase an equity, and said introducing affiliate electronically ~~transmitting~~ transmits currency for said purchase of said equity to said global hub.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said global hub transmits said currency to said executing affiliate.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said ~~first~~ introducing affiliate maintains an account for said customer in a first currency and prior to transmitting said currency to said executing affiliate, a check is made of said account to ensure said account holds an amount greater than said amount of said purchase of said equity.

9.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 6, wherein each of said transaction orders requires a trade of a first currency to a second currency, and said global hub ~~responsible for converting~~ converts said first currency to said second currency.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said global hub is connected to a foreign exchange rate information source and a foreign exchange rate bank, said global hub sending said first currency to said foreign exchange rate bank and receiving in return said second currency.

13. (Currently amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 6, wherein ~~there exists~~ the introducing affiliate maintains a customer account corresponding to said customer, and ~~further~~ wherein other than said transaction order, said introducing affiliate does not send ~~sending~~ information pertaining to said customer account to said global hub.

14.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method of selling a security or commodity, comprising the acts of:

accepting an electronic transaction order from a first customer in a first country to sell a stock, said stock being traded on a first financial exchange;

checking an account in a customer account for said first customer to determine if said customer owns said stock;

electronically transmitting said transaction order to the first financial exchange via a global hub, said global hub being electronically connected to at least a second financial exchange and said first financial exchange;

selling said stock on said first financial exchange;

electronically transmitting proceeds from said sale of said stock from said first financial exchange to said customer account via the global hub.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said first financial exchange is in a second country.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said step of selling said stock includes said global hub electronically transmitting said transaction order to an executing affiliate that sells said stock on said first exchange.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said executing affiliate is in a second country.

26. (Currently amended) A method of buying a security or commodity, comprising:

entering a transaction order into a first computerized system, said transaction order being for the purchase of a security or commodity;

transmitting said transaction order electronically to a second computerized system, said second computerized system being connected to a plurality stock exchanges in a plurality of countries; and

receiving from said second computerized system execution details regarding the purchase of said security or commodity in response to said transaction order, said purchase of said security or commodity being made by a stock exchange member connected to said second computerized system,

wherein said first computerized system maintains a customer account in a first currency and said security or commodity trades on a stock exchange in a second currency, and

wherein said second computerized system converts said first currency to said second currency to purchase said security or commodity.

27.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said second computerized system connects to stock exchanges in at least three countries.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

vetting a customer account in said first computerized system to determine that said customer account holds funds sufficient to purchase said security or commodity.

31. (Currently amended) A method for buying a security or commodity, comprising:

receiving a transaction order electronically in a first country to purchase a security or commodity, said transaction order being initiated from a second country and being transmitted through a global hub, said global hub being connected to stock exchanges in a plurality of countries;

executing the purchase of said security or commodity on a stock exchange in said first country in response to said transaction order;

transmitting electronically the execution details of said purchase of said security or commodity, said execution details including a price for said purchase; and

converting a first currency to a second currency to facilitate said purchase of said security or commodity,

wherein said conversion of said first currency to said second currency occurs on the settlement date for said purchase.

32.-33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said step of transmitting comprises first transmitting said execution details to said global hub from an executing affiliate and second transmitting to an introducing affiliate in said first country.

35. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said transaction order is associated with a customer account upon generation of said transaction order, said customer account being encumbered by an amount at least equal to said price for said purchase.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the amount of said encumbrance is based on a price for said security or commodity, and an exchange rate between a first currency and a second currency.

37. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said method includes an executing broker that executes said transaction order, said executing broker also being suitable to act as an introducing broker for the generation of a transaction order.

38. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said transaction order is received electronically by a computer system.

39. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said global hub connects between any given pair of stock exchanges.

40. (Currently amended) A method of selling a security or commodity, comprising:

entering a transaction order into a first computerized system, said transaction order being for the sale of a security or commodity;

transmitting said transaction order electronically toward a second computerized system, said second computerized system being connected to a plurality stock exchanges in a plurality of countries; and

receiving from said second computerized system execution details regarding the sale of said security or commodity in response to said transaction order, said sale of said security or commodity being made by a stock exchange member connected to said second computerized system; and

converting proceeds of said sale from a first currency to a second currency,

wherein said conversion of said first currency to said second currency occurs on the settlement date for said sale.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein said second computerized system connects to said plurality of stock exchanges in a hub and spoke configuration.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein said method includes receiving from said second computerized system the proceeds from the sale of said security or commodity.

43. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein said method includes the conversion of a first currency to a second currency.

44.-45. (Canceled)